



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Henry J. Mroz Central Administration Offices
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852

To: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools
From: Latifah Phillips, Chief Equity and Engagement Officer
RE: Research Proposal – *Learning During a Pandemic*
Date: December 4, 2020

A request was submitted to Lowell Public Schools from the University of Washington's Center on Reinventing Public Education in partnership with SRI International and the Center for Public Research and Leadership at the Columbia Law school, and with support from the Barr Foundation. The research team expressed interest in conducting a study to better understand how New England high schools sustained learning during the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery period. The goal is to identify the barriers, strategies and solutions that were implemented during the pandemic and document ways school systems can rebuild once the pandemic has passed.

The research team will conduct 30-45 minute virtual interviews with central office and high school leaders, and student and teacher volunteers. Small stipends will be available to compensate student and teacher volunteers for their time and participation.

The following systems questions will guide the research:

- How did districts arrive at their approach and strategies for learning during COVID-19?
- What has been the nature of the response in terms of curriculum, instruction, students' experiences, teacher workforce, and school and system policy and structure?
- What are the near and long term consequences of the response for students, teachers, schools and the district?

The benefit of participating in this research project is that the district will receive feedback upon completion of the project that can inform our continuous improvement of our schools, and we will join a regional and national community of leaders who identify best practices and emerging trends that can support school systems locally and nationwide.